

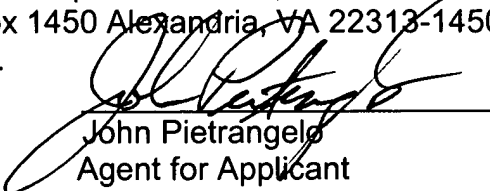


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Wing, et al. Attorney Ref.: 1242.017  
Serial No.: 09/944,190 Group Art Unit: 3763  
Filed: August 31, 2001 Examiner: Desanto, Matthew F.  
Title: OBTURATOR AND CANNULA FOR A TROCAR ADAPTED FOR  
EASE OF INSERTION AND REMOVAL

**CERTIFICATE OF FIRST-CLASS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, via First-class Mail addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 19, 2004.

  
John Pietrangelo  
Agent for Applicant  
Reg. No. 39,331

Date of Signature: August 19, 2004.

To: Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir:

**Introductory Comments**


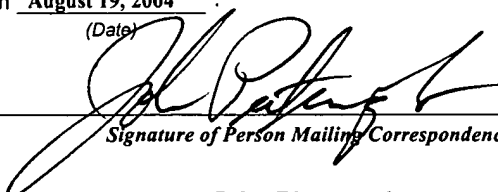
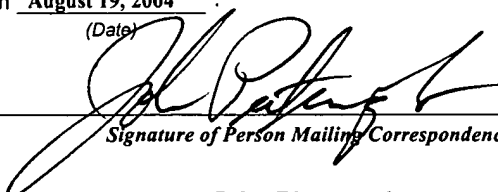
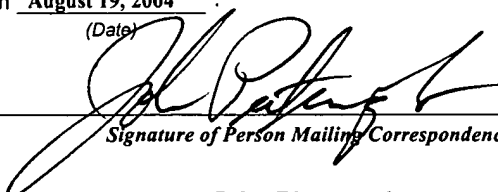
This Response to Office Action is being submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 29, 2004. Since this Response to Office Action is being filed on or before August 29, 2004, that is, within four months of the date of mailing of the Office Action, a one-month extension fee of \$110.00 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1) is included with this Response.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper. **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

**RECEIVED**  
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<b>AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)</b>				Docket No. 1242.017							
Applicant(s): Wing, et al.											
Application No. 09/944,190	Filing Date 08/31/2001	Examiner DeSanto, Matthew F.	Customer No. 23405	Group Art Unit 3763	Confirmation No. 1208						
Invention: <b>OBTURATOR AND CANNULA FOR A TROCAR ADAPTED FOR EASE OF INSERTION AND REMOVAL</b>											
<b>COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</b>											
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application. The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.											
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED</b>											
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE						
TOTAL CLAIMS	15 -	54 =	0 x	\$18.00	\$0.00						
INDEP. CLAIMS	1 -	6 =	0 x	\$86.00	\$0.00						
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00						
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account <b>08-1935</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038.											
<b>WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</b>											
 Signature			Dated: August 19, 2004								
John Pietrangelo, Registration No.: 39,331 Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C. 5 Columbia Circle Albany, New York 12203 Tel.: 518-452-5600 Fax: 518-452-5579			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">           I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)]            on August 19, 2004            (Date)         </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">             Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence         </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"> <b>John Pietrangelo</b>            Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence         </td> </tr> </table>			I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on August 19, 2004 (Date)		 Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence		<b>John Pietrangelo</b> Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence	
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 Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence											
<b>John Pietrangelo</b> Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence											
CC:											